

57. (58)

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# A N S W E R

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## Mr. *Starling's* Pretence,

*That Mrs. Jane Ettrick was Married to one John Knott, a Drawer at the Crown-Tavern in the Strand, in Opposition to Mr. Ettrick's Bill.*

**T**HIS was objected and insisted on before the Committee, but not made out. The Fact appeared to be, That *Richard Starling*, Father of the said *Jane*, going to the *East-Indies*, and dying there, her Uncle the said *Mr. Starling*, for some time pretended to take care of her, but afterwards Deserted her at Lodgings, without paying either for her Board or Cloaths; and she having no Fortune, but this Estate in Expectancy, to which he laid Claim, *Mr. William Knott*, her Uncle by Marriage, in Compassion took her into his Care, and Maintained her for several Years. And the said *Mr. Starling* being advised by Council, that he had no Right to the Estate, and that it belonged to the said *Jane*, he attempted to get a Conveyance from the Trustees; and presented the Brewers Company with a Silver Punch-Bowl (value Twenty Pounds) for their Consent; and failing therein, he sent a Man and Horse from *London*, to Steal her away from *Mr. Knott's* House in *Lincolnshire*, and gave out he would Marry her to a Tradesman for Five hundred Pounds, who should Release the Estate to him.

After these Practises *Mr. Knott* took advice how he might secure the Guardianship of her, that her said Uncle might not take her from him, without making Satisfaction for her Maintenance, and Education, and to that end was advised to (and did) Contract her in Marriage to his Son, who was only Thirteen Years of Age; and after he came to the Age of Consent, disagreed, released the Contract under Hand and Seal; was present in the Church at *Mr. Ettrick's* Marriage, and (so soon as it was over) took her by the hand, called her Cousin, Saluted her, and wished her Joy; and by repeated Acts both before and since (*viz.*) by Disclaimer and several Affidavits in *Chancery*, did renounce and abjure the said Contract.